



P.O. Box 1343

Granbury, TX 76048

Office 817.579.6866

Fax 817.579.6427

Hotline 817.579.6848

[www.missiongranbury.org](http://www.missiongranbury.org)

**Remember:**

You Can Donate Online

## ***Mission Granbury Dedicated to Helping Prevent Sexual Assault***

Nationally, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and **Mission Granbury** is even more focused on expanding understanding of the realities and prevention of the tragedy of sexual assault.

Did you know that we provide, free of charge, many services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault? They are:

- therapeutic counseling with a licensed therapist
- emergency shelter
- case managers to advocate for victims
- financial assistance
- guidance toward opportunities for employment.

These services are a vital resource for the Hood County community. As victims heal and re-enter the mainstream again, we all benefit from

residents who have been helped through a traumatic situation. The help pivots around skills that move each person from victim to survivor. As a survivor, individuals can contribute and share experiences.

**Mission Granbury** has always been committed to primary prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault. Primary prevention is stopping violence before it occurs by engaging in strategic, long-term, and comprehensive initiatives to address the risk and protective factors related to perpetration and victimization.

To this end, we recently formed a task force to develop a plan that will address risk factors for sexual violence at the individual, relational, community, and societal level. Working to execute primary prevention of violence is exciting because it offers ways for the broader community to enact changes that will benefit all members.

You can help. If you are interested in primary prevention or have questions, please contact Margie Messina at (817) 579-6866. •

## ***April 18-24 Was National Crime Victims' Rights Week***

### ***We need your email to Save and Serve!***

Help Mission Granbury Save and Serve! Stay informed about Mission Granbury, and help channel funds for more services by signing up for *The Missive* newsletter by e-mail. Please send your e-mail address today to [hmclathery@missiongranbury.org](mailto:hmclathery@missiongranbury.org), and Heather will make it happen!

At the **Ada Carey Center for Women & Children**, we utilize resources within our community to assist victims of family abuse or violence and/or sexual assault so they can reach a level of self-sufficiency and freedom from abuse.

Our clients have been victimized not only by physical violence and/or sexual assault but also by the power and control of their abusers. Such control might include isolating them from their friends or family, preventing them from obtaining dental or medical attention, disrupting their efforts for better employment or education, or abandoning them with no means of transportation to reach needed assistance.

Often, because of these and similar scenarios, women lose self-esteem and self-worth. Their children who witness this may become future abusers or victims. And each family's struggles are unique. **Mission Granbury** exists to tailor assistance programs to meet the needs of each family we serve. The Ada Carey Center staff offers our resident children a Mentoring, Reading, and Tutoring Program two afternoons a week. They provide tutoring to adult residents as needed. Since January 2010, tutoring has been provided to two adult clients. The first client received assistance and was able to complete a course and receive her GED. > continued on back >





**Board of Directors**

**Barry Van Duzee, Ph.D.,  
President**

**Dan Coates, Vice President**

**Mike Gandy, Treasurer**

**Jake Caraway, Secretary**

**Cathey Briscoe**

**David Brown**

**Patti Carey**

**Judy Coates**

**Jan McKee**

**Mona Nuckolls**

**Laura Power, M.D.**

**Jo Beth Ross**

**Sara Smith**

**Patsy Walton**

**Cissy Wilson**

**Acting Executive Director**

**Margie Messina**

**mmessina@missiongranbury.org**

**Executive Director**

**Ginger Eways**

**geways@missiongranbury.org**

**P.O. Box 1343**

**Granbury, TX 76048**

**Office 817.579.6866**

**Fax 817.579.6427**

**Hotline 817.579.6848**

**www.missiongranbury.org**

## ***What Can We Do for the Most Helpless Victims in Our Community?***

Imagine you're just a little child. You've been abused and neglected all your life. This is reality to you. You're scared. A bunch of unknown grownups are telling you what to do and taking you away from your home, your Mommy, and your toys. What's happening?

The concept is nearly overwhelming to consider! Fortunately, in Hood County, that child will actually have one very special person to help him. By being appointed a **CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)** by the District Judge, the special person becomes an advocate who will speak for the child and give their fears and concerns a true voice in the court. This advocate will be with him through all of the changes that will take place to remove the abuse, the neglect, the fear, and the chaos. He won't be alone as he moves from one home to another, because his special advocate will be right there with him—a single, warm and loving face in a sea of strangers.

This CASA is there to reassure, comfort, and encourage children in these situations, to help them dream their dreams. Dreams are an important part of childhood, and we know that our CASA kids too frequently don't dare to dream about next week, much less about the future. Dreams are often too quickly crushed unless a CASA can encourage them. A CASA facilitates a child's safe return to his family by educating parents on what is needed in order to have the child back. The CASA also helps children understand what is happening.

And, if things don't go as well as hoped, the CASA reassures the child that every effort is being made to find a forever family to love and cherish him and, if possible, to restore his dreams.

Bobby [name changed for privacy considerations] was one such child that CASA helped to restore his dreams. Bobby spent over eleven years in foster care, moving to and from various homes and facilities for most of his life. As a result, he was on a track to a very bleak future, probably within the criminal justice system.

However, Bobby had a CASA who refused to give up on him. The CASA was dedicated to instilling good values and work ethics. He taught the boy to be responsible, to set goals, and to follow through with them.

Today, Bobby is graduating from high school with an outstanding record and plans to continue his education in college. When he was asked what adult most influenced him in his life and whom he felt comfortable calling upon in need, Bobby answered, "My CASA."

In 2009, CASA of Hood/Somervell participated in the adoption of eleven CASA children. Unfortunately, there are currently 51 children from Hood and Somervell counties in foster care. But each one has a CASA volunteer working to see that they have a chance at the future they deserve.

CASA's founder in Texas stated that where CASA children are concerned,

**"CASAs are low flying angels... who kick butt."**

April is "Child Abuse Awareness Month," and **Mission Granbury** hopes that the blue ribbons and the cutouts of children placed around town are reminding everyone to report child abuse, support the precious victims, and help our low flying CASA angels. Call to volunteer or donate today. •

## ***National Crime Victims' Rights Week*** (continued from front)

The second client was able to complete pre-employment testing with acceptable scores enabling her to begin employment. The Mentoring, Reading, and Tutoring program is provided courtesy of **Mission Granbury's** Auxiliary, "Friends of Mission Granbury."

All women and children staying at the Ada Carey Center are greeted with an empathetic ear, a supportive voice, and ample resource information and referrals based on their individual goals and needs. Coupled with the compassionate hearts of our staff, our dedicated volunteers, and the members of this community, these services are invaluable.

This month we say a special THANK YOU to all of the caring individuals, groups, and organizations who support the Ada Carey Center. •